

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/936,127

Examiner

Gerald Gauthier

Applicant(s)

RYU, TADAMITSU

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/05/2001 Amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


GERALD GAUTHIER
PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable

1. **Claim(s) 1-17** are allowed.

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

2. This application claims the priority of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP00/01339, filed on March 2000 based on the priority of Japanese Patent Application No. 58027/1999, filed on March 5, 1999, and Japanese Patent Application No. 58028/1999, filed on March 5, 1999.

Independent **claim(s) 1 and 9** are directed to a detailed system and method for recording conversation. The speech of a conversation is recognized and information extracted to be recorded according to the results of speech recognition. A conversation record buffer (or a writing step for writing in the conversation record buffer) transforms the extracted information into formatted sentences and recording this as contents of the conversation. A case database (or a case storing step) stores in a case database the above formatted sentence. A topicality control section (or a deducting information set step) deduces an undefined information on the basis of one item of information included in the sentence recorded by the conversation buffer section by referencing the cases stored in the case database and set in the conversation record buffer. A topicality control section (or an information inquire renewing step) shows a sentence including the undefined information recorded in the conversation record buffer by graphic to a document creator. The document creator is inquired about the undefined information

recorded in the conversation record buffer in order to define the undefined information. A conversation record archive (or conversation record step) records the defined conversation record as sentences.

The closest prior art or record is U.S. Patent No. 6,556,970 B1 ("Sasaki"). Sasaki discloses a structurally similar system (compare Fig. 11 of Sasaki to Fig. 1 of the applicant's invention). Sasaki also recognizes the speech of a conversation and evaluates sentence structure and topic determination (abstract). However, Sasaki fails to disclose the use of case database and a topicality control section that deduces an undefined information on the basis of one item of information included in the sentence recorded by the conversation buffer by referencing the cases stored in the case database and set in the conversation record buffer.

The remaining prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the obviousness of modifying Sasaki in order to arrive at the invention as claimed in detail by the applicant.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Drawings

3. The application having been allowed, formal drawings are required in response to this Office Action.


Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gerald Gauthier whose telephone number is (571) 272-7539. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


GERALD GAUTHIER
PATENT EXAMINER

Gerald Gauthier
Examiner
Art Unit 2614

GG
July 7, 2006